



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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## THIRD INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Washington, D.C. 20231

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each of the listed documents is enclosed.

The listed documents were cited in a search report issued by the European Patent Office in a counterpart European application. A copy of the search report is also enclosed.

It is noted that U.S. Patent Nos. 4,563,238, 4,473,735 and 5,889,255,

JP 9-201966, and EP 0 920 996 A, cited in the search report, are not submitted herewith
because each of these documents was previously cited in the Information Disclosure

Statement (IDS) dated December 21, 2001 or the IDS dated August 20, 2002, and a copy of
each of these documents was submitted with the IDS in which it was cited. It is also noted
that each of these documents was previously cited in a European search report dated
July 25, 2002, a copy of which was submitted with the August 20, 2002 IDS.

## **FORMAL MATTERS**

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), since a first Office Action on the merits has not yet been issued, neither a statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) nor payment of a fee is believed to be required for consideration of this Third Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed for that purpose.

## **CONCLUSION**

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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